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September 19, 2009

Via Email/Electronic Filing

Marlene H. Dortch Office of the Secretary Federal Communications Commission 445 - 12th Street, SW Washington, DC 20554

Karen Majcher Vice President, High Cost and Low Income Division Universal Service Administrative Company 2000 L Street, NW, Suite 200 Washington, DC 20036 E-mail: hcfilings@hcli.universalservice.org

Re: Warwick Valley Telephone Company – Certification with Regard

to the Use of Universal Service Support - Year 2010

CC Docket No. 96-45

Dear Ms. Dortch & Ms. Majcher:

On behalf of the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities ("Board"), enclosed for filing please find a copy of the Board's recent Order of Approval, submitted in compliance with the certification requirements set forth in 47 <u>C.F.R.</u> § 54.314. Please accept this certification in full satisfaction of the Board's certification requirement.



The Board's certification and Order of Approval reflects the sworn affidavit of Warwick, noting that Warwick Valley Telephone Company will only use the federal high-cost universal support it receives during 2010 for the provision, maintenance, and upgrading of the facilities and service for which such support is intended, as required pursuant to Section 254(e) of the Telecommunications Act of 1996 and 47 C.F.R. § 54.101 et seq.

I thank you for your attention to this matter.

Very truly yours,

ANNE MILGRAM ATTORNEY GENERAL OF NEW JERSEY

Kenneth J. Sheehan

Deputy Attorney General

cc: Anthony Centrella, BPU
Bruce Gallagher, BPU
Martin C. Rothfelder, Esq.

Agenda Date: 08/19/09 Agenda Item: IVD



STATE OF NEW JERSEY

Board of Public Utilities Two Gateway Center Newark, NJ 07102 www.nj.gov/bpu/

TELECOMMUNICATIONS

IN THE MATTER OF THE PETITION OF WARWICK)
VALLEY TELEPHONE COMPANY FOR CERTIFICATION)
WITH REGARD TO THE USE OF UNIVERSAL SERVICE)
SUPPORT – YEAR 2010)

ORDER OF APPROVAL & CERTIFICATION

DOCKET NO. TO01090575

(SERVICE LIST ATTACHED)

BY THE BOARD:

On June 25, 2008, pursuant to 47 <u>C.F.R.</u> §54.314, Warwick Valley Telephone Company ("Warwick") filed a verified petition with the Board of Public Utilities ("Board") requesting that the Board file a certification with the Federal Communications Commission ("FCC") stating that Warwick's use of Universal Service Support funds ("USS") is consistent with the purposes for which such funds may be used, according to federal law. On July 9, 2009, Warwick sent certification of publication regarding this matter. This certification must be filed by the Board with the FCC by October 1, 2009 in order for Warwick to receive its full allocation of funds under the requirements imposed by the FCC.

Warwick is an incumbent local exchange carrier ("ILEC") providing telecommunications services to customers in the Townships of Vernon and West Milford, New Jersey, and the towns of Warwick and Goshen, New York. Warwick provides service to approximately 17,585 access lines, of which approximately 6,626 are in New Jersey. Warwick is a rural telephone company as defined by the Telecommunications Act of 1996, P.L. 104-104, 110 Stat. 56 (codified in scattered sections of 47 <u>U.S.C.</u> §§151 <u>et seq.</u>) (hereinafter, the Act). <u>See</u> 47 <u>U.S.C.</u> §153(37). The Board has previously certified Warwick as an eligible telecommunications carrier pursuant to 47 <u>U.S.C.</u> §214(e). <u>See</u> Order of Approval, <u>I/M/O a Petition by Warwick Valley Telephone Company for Designation as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier Under the Telecommunications Act of 1996, Docket No. TO97080587 (November 25, 1997). Under the Act, certification as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier is necessary in order to receive federal Universal Service Support. 47 U.S.C. §254(e).</u>

The FCC's rule at 47 <u>C.F.R.</u> §54.314(a) requires that, in order for Warwick to receive USS funds, the Board must file an annual certification with the USS fund administrator and state to the FCC that "all federal high-cost support provided to [Warwick] will be used only for provision, maintenance, and upgrading of facilities and service for which the support is intended." Pursuant to 47 <u>C.F.R.</u> §54.314(d), the Board's annual certification must be filed with the administrator and the FCC by October 1, 2009, in order for Warwick to receive USS fund support for 2010.

By previous Order, dated September 15, 2008 at Docket No. TO01090575, the Board certified Warwick's use of USS funds in order for Warwick to receive support in 2009. In that Order, the Board stated:

Because state certification is now required on an annual basis, and in order to ensure use of Universal Service Support funds in a manner consistent with federal law, the Board <u>DIRECTS</u> Warwick to continue to submit to the Board, no later that July 1st and January 1st of each year, a report, in a manner and format to be determined by Staff, providing auditable information sufficient to determine Warwick's compliance with federal law, including, but not limited to, compliance with the FCC's required uses of Universal Service Support funds. The Board <u>FURTHER DIRECTS</u> Warwick to continue to file its future requests for Board certification no later than July 1st of each year, absent extenuating circumstances, and to simultaneously publish notice of the filing in newspapers of general circulation in its service territory. Such notice shall be reviewed by Staff prior to its publication.

Warwick has filed the following information:

- A Cost Support Response Form prepared as of June 22, 2009 (schedules for 2009 pro forma and 2010 projected).
- B Affidavit of Joyce A. Stoeberl, Senior Vice President and Corporate Secretary of Warwick, certifying use of USS funds for 2010 will be for intended purposes under the Act.
- C A copy of the proof of newspaper publication of this filing.

Having reviewed the petition and the information submitted in support thereof, the Board <u>HEREBY CERTIFIES</u> that Warwick shall use the federal USS it receives during 2010 for the provision, maintenance and upgrading of facilities and service for which such support is intended, as required by Section 254(e) of the Telecommunications Act of 1996 and 47 <u>C.F.R.</u> §54.101 <u>et seq.</u>

Because state certification is now required on an annual basis, and in order to ensure continued use of Universal Service Support funds in a manner consistent with federal law, the Board <u>DIRECTS</u> Warwick to continue to submit to the Board, no later than July 1st and January 1st of each year, a report, in a manner and format to be determined by Staff, providing auditable information sufficient to determine Warwick's compliance with federal law, including, but not limited to, compliance with the FCC's required uses of Universal Service Support funds.

The Board FURTHER DIRECTS Warwick to continue to file its future requests for Board certification no later than July 1st of each year, absent extenuating circumstances, and to simultaneously publish notice of the filing in newspapers of general circulation in its service territory. Such notice shall be reviewed by Staff prior to its publication. In addition, the Board requests that the Attorney General's office provide, to both the Office of the Secretary of the FCC and the Administrator of the high-cost universal service support mechanism, a letter transmitting this Order to serve as compliance with the certification requirements as set forth in 47 C.F.R. §54.315.

DATED: 8/19/09

BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES BY:

JEANNE M. FOX PRESIDENT

e M. Fox

COMMISSIONER

NICHOLAS ASSELTA COMMISSIONER

OMMISSIONER

ATTEST:

SECRETARY

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the within document is a true copy of the original in the files of the Board of Public

SERVICE LIST TO01090575

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